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## THE AMERICAN.

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### CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.

	PAGE
Notes of the Week . . . . .	161
Dilemma of the Treasury . . . . .	164
Gold at Par with Itself . . . . .	165
Wasting Our National Wealth . . . . .	165
What We May Expect from England . . . . .	166
Woman's Ways . . . . .	167
A Chapter About Children . . . . .	167
A Word with the Doctor . . . . .	168
Sociological Subjects . . . . .	168
Newspaper Notes . . . . .	168
Same Queries Answered . . . . .	169
Men You Read About . . . . .	169
Our London Letter . . . . .	169
Bric-a-Brac . . . . .	170
Our Paris Letter . . . . .	170
Auguste Comte, by William Struthers . . . . .	172
Foreign Facts and Fancies . . . . .	172
Among the Preachers . . . . .	173
Books of the Week . . . . .	173
Odds and Ends . . . . .	174
Chips for Capitalists . . . . .	174
Nuggets and Nubbins . . . . .	175
Tea Table Gossip . . . . .	175

### NOTES OF THE WEEK.

AFTER paying into the Treasury over \$12,000,000 in gold in exchange for "greenbacks," and thus replenishing the gold reserve depleted by gold exports, the bond syndicate, in the face of increasing gold exports, held aloof and the reserve fell below the traditional \$100,000,000. On Wednesday the syndicate deposited \$3,000,000 additional gold, but whether the syndicate continues to stand by the Treasury or not, it is clear that the members of the syndicate are impotent to check gold exports. All they can do is to replenish the depleted stock of the Treasury

by drawing on their own accumulations. To see the syndicate withdrawing gold from the banks and adding it to the Treasury reserve recalls the proverbial Pat's effort to lengthen his blanket by clipping a bit from the bottom and stitching it to the top.

The expensive folly of endeavoring to hold our gold is becoming more and more apparent, yet rumors of another bond issue are becoming more and more definite. The effect of borrowing gold is to make a local inflation and rise of prices, resulting in increased imports, return of our securities held abroad, and consequent increase of gold exports. The more we borrow, the faster gold will flow away.

WE can hold on to our gold and stop the drain on the gold in the Treasury only in two ways: First, following the advice of Mr. Cleveland, withdrawing the "greenbacks" and Treasury notes (this can only be done by adding to our interest-bearing debt), and thus contracting the currency and depressing prices, exports of merchandise would be accelerated and imports checked, the balance of trade would turn much in our favor and barring the sale, by foreigners, of our securities, gold exports would be checked. But with the falling off in imports our revenue would fall off, while the interest charges of the government would be much increased, facts which Mr. Cleveland seems to overlook, and the national government as well as the people would be bankrupted.

Or, second, instead of contracting our currency and depressing prices we can broaden the basis on which our paper rests by restoring silver to its place as money and thus raise prices. Prices of agricultural products having been unduly depressed, would be the first to recover, and being placed on an equal plane with our silver competitors, who, now unduly favored by the premium on gold, are driving us out of the European markets, we would receive fair prices for our exports, which would rise in price faster than our imports. The balance of trade thus turned greatly in our favor and prosperity restored, there would be no demand for gold for export. Gold could then be employed more profitably in the United States than elsewhere, and foreign investors would have no incentive to dispose of their securities. Placing silver side by side with gold is the only practicable way to maintain specific payments.

THE interest of the newspapers and their readers this week has been centered on the great yacht races for the America cup. This cup was won by Captain Stevens' yacht America in 1851 from the London Yacht Club in a contest at the Isle of Wight. Its subsequent owners have offered it as a prize for similar races. Already there have been eight attempts to have the trophy restored to England, and two attempts by Canadians to carry off the honor. But in every case Yankee skill in yacht designing and building and Yankee management of the craft have succeeded in keeping the coveted cup. The contestants in the present series of races are the Defender, which was selected for the American side after a spirited contest with the Vigilant, and Lord Dunraven's yacht Valkyrie III. In the first race on last Saturday, in spite of

weather which was judged favorable to the British yacht, the Defender easily won. In the second race the Valkyrie beat by 47 seconds, but as it had fouled its opponent and inflicted some damage, the Defender was awarded the victory.

COMPTROLLER BOWLER, who recently refused to pay to the sugar growers the bounty awarded them by Congress, has again, after hearing their counsel, pronounced the act unconstitutional and refused to allow the bounty to be paid. He has, however, modified his former decision so far as to direct a reference of the question to the Court of Claims. He has evidently been startled by the protest against permitting a single obscure official of the Executive Department to wield the momentous power of the Supreme Court. But Senator Manderson, counsel for the Nebraska sugar-beet manufacturers, contends that the reference to the Court of Claims cannot be made without the consent of the claimants. His reason was probably the long delay in payment of his clients if the Court should decide in their favor; but, also, he feared that the decision might be the other way, as an *obiter dictum* of one of its judges was in part the basis of Mr. Bowler's original decision. A dispute, involving such far-reaching consequences, should certainly be decided judicially, and will not be settled till it has reached the court of last resort.

SECRETARY CARLISLE is in a quandary. His "sound money" campaign, which was trumpeted over the country as a grand triumph for the administration, has gradually resulted in confusion worse confounded. No "sound money" Democrat knows what he ought to do. The leaders give discordant orders, and make them worse by adding discordant reasons. Senator Blackburn is making an aggressive campaign, and advocating "free silver" as if he had never been beaten on that issue. He confidently expects to be returned to the United States Senate, and his leading opponent, Gen. S. B. Buckner, who surrendered Fort Donelson, has again yielded to the inevitable and retired from the contest. Nothing can save Kentucky, Bourbon Kentucky, to the Democracy, unless Secretary Carlisle will again take the stump. If he does, he must also become a candidate for the Senate. But he does not wish to do that, for he is a candidate already for the Presidency. At least his wife has said so in a letter which has crept into print. But if Kentucky should go Republican this fall, all Mr. Carlisle's hopes and prospects would go to ruin.

THE steamship St. Louis, which was built at the Cramps' shipyard in Philadelphia, and launched last November, has by the record of its recent trip across the Atlantic won a contract for carrying the mails weekly between New York and Southampton for ten years at the rate of \$4 per mile. This is the outcome of an important act passed by Congress four years ago and intended to promote American shipbuilding, and to provide indirectly for an increase of the navy in an emergency. It may be remembered that President Cleveland when present at the launch of this first vessel built under the provisions of that act thought it proper to say bluntly that Americans ought to buy their ships abroad and get them registered here simply as being their property. To require them to be built in America was mere foolish sentiment, quite of a piece with the policy of protection to other home industries. The Fifty-first Congress, however, had taken an entirely different view of this matter and required the vessels to be of American register, owned and officered by American citizens, and that during the first two years of the contract at least one-fourth of the crew should also be American citizens, and during the last five years this proportion should be increased to one-half.

Under this act vessels of the first class must show a speed of at least 20 knots. This was exceeded by the St. Louis, which steamed for over four successive hours at the rate of 22.3 knots. In accordance with the act of 1891 such vessels must be readily con-

verted into naval cruisers, and, therefore, be built according to specifications agreed to by the owners and the Secretary of the Navy. The St. Louis is able to sustain the operations of four effective 6-inch rifled cannon. Vessels which are allowed to take advantage of the provisions of this act may at any time be taken by the United States Government as transports or cruisers on payment of their actual value to their owners. The leading idea of the whole act was borrowed from Great Britain's method of subsidizing its steamship companies, though the terms are more rigorous and the details of the plan most thoroughly American.

THE absolute triumph of Mr. Roosevelt's straightforward policy in enforcement of the Sunday law in New York City has been achieved in this month. The Wine and Liquor Dealers Association has openly declared its intention to submit to the law. When this powerful organization, which controls two-thirds of the saloons, yields to the pressure but few will have the hardihood to take the risk of violating the law. The threat that violation, if proved, would hereafter involve imprisonment of the offender, as well as a fine, is said to have proved the potent argument. On the last day of August 400 saloon-keepers who had pleaded guilty were fined each \$25. They had been notified that if they insisted on standing trial the fine would be \$300. Having learned that the law is intended to be enforced without fear or favor, they prudently submitted rather than make a losing fight.

It is to be remembered that the present Excise law in New York is not a new law, but was passed in 1892 by a Democratic Legislature and signed by Governor Flower. It was intended to work in two different ways. Its strict provisions were to win the favor of the country people, who wished Sunday to be a day of rest, while its peculiar partial enforcement in the cities was to make it a club in the hands of Tammany and its adherents to compel the saloon to support that political organization. Under the changed circumstances it now recoils with double force upon its deceitful framers.

WILLIAM HENRY HURLBERT, whose death in some obscure corner of Italy was reported last Saturday, was a remarkable type of the modern journalist. Starting as a Unitarian Minister, whose hymns are still sung in some churches, he ended his career as a moral reprobate, a seducer and perjurer, compelled to hide lest the law should lay its severe hand upon him. For many years he was editor of the *New York World*, though his name was a by-word in the clubs of that city, where he was charged, among other offenses, with pocketing bric-a-brac when admitted as a visitor to gentlemen's houses. Yet this evil reputation did not prevent his astonishing social success when circumstances compelled him to take up his residence in London. This American Chesterfield gratified the Tory aristocracy, not only by his brilliant wit at their tables, but by defending their Irish policy in his book on "Ireland Under Coercion." He rendered a similar service to the Comte de Chambord by his book on "Republican France." He had become, in fact, a prostitute of the press, his pen at the service of the highest bidder.

THE Southern Exposition which opens this month at Atlanta is an outcome of the Columbian World's Fair at Chicago. Its projectors felt that the exhibit of Southern products there was by no means adequate nor in proportion to the display made by other parts of the country. They have therefore exerted themselves to gather not only from the South, but from all parts of the country and from foreign nations, a fresh display of the products of human skill and industry. In order to foster renewed devotion to the Union, they requested from the authorities of Philadelphia permission to exhibit the venerable Liberty Bell, which has been preserved in Independence Hall. Some worthy citizens of Philadelphia sought the aid of the courts to enjoin the Mayor and other officers from complying with this request, but Judge Thayer,

in an admirable opinion, held that the city had a right to appropriate the necessary funds to provide for the proper transportation and safe return of the venerable relic. May its presence in the Gate City of the South accomplish the patriotic purpose for which it was requested, and contribute to a profounder harmony between the sections and a warmer regard of each State for the others. Grander than the finest display of the products of agriculture, mining and manufactures will be the united devotion of the people to genuine liberty.

THE New Orleans *Times-Democrat*, a paper noted for the accuracy of the statistics which it gathers and publishes from time to time, has lately made a comparative statement of the progress of the South in the past fifteen years. By the term South, it denotes the thirteen States south of the Potomac and Ohio, from Virginia to Texas. In this region from the year 1880 to 1895, the manufacturing establishments have increased from 34,565 to 59,176, and the capital invested from \$179,336,240 to \$559,467,500. The number of hands had more than doubled, and the wages more than trebled.

The cultivated land has increased from 34,679,145 acres to 59,462,672, while the value of farm products has risen in about equal proportion from \$611,699,145 to \$976,463,500. The number of farms has increased from 1,726,480 to 2,402,672.

These statistics and those relating to the coal and iron of the South are interesting as showing a regular progress and testifying that the change from the primitive dependence upon agriculture alone is giving place to diversified industries without impairing or curtailing the proper progress of agriculture. It is probable that the development of the natural resources of the South will be still greater in the next fifteen years than in the past. What is necessary to secure this is the restoration of the policy of protection to home industry, which the South has unwisely for itself so long opposed.

THE Grand Army of the Republic holds its national encampment in Louisville this week, and a larger number of veterans than ever before are said to be in attendance. This meeting in the thirtieth year since the close of the war is the first that has ever been held south of the Ohio, and even it is barely on the southern bank of that stream. Kentucky was almost equally divided during the Civil war, for though its State government never actually joined the Southern Confederacy, the majority of its young men who fought in the war served on that side. Many of these are now as ardent in behalf of the Union as preserved to them in their own despite as they were then to destroy it. They recognize its blessings and privileges and join heartily in welcoming those who strove with might and main to teach them their duty to their whole country.

MR. A. B. HOWARD, Chief of the Maryland Labor Bureau, gives in his report for this year some interesting statements about the ownership of personal property. These are drawn from the records of the Probate Court in Baltimore, during six years past. They show that one out of every ten persons leaves some personal property besides household furniture. Hence he infers that one-third of all the families own personal property. But the most important statistics are in the following table:

Value of Estate.	Owners.	Total Value.
Under \$2,500.....	3,675	\$ 3,154,957
From \$2,500 to \$25,000.....	1,822	13,910,486
\$25,000 and over.....	417	41,990,125
	5,914	\$59,055,568

These figures show that two-thirds of the owners held only 6 per cent. of the property, and on the other hand that 7 per cent. of the owners held over 70 per cent. of the property. Were real estate included, the disproportion would undoubtedly be more

conspicuous. There is every probability that the same comparative results would be found correct in most of the large cities of the Union.

THE farmers in Kansas, looking with amazement on their prodigious crops, are said to be wisely buying cattle to fatten for sale next year. Cattle and hogs now sell at low prices. By putting the corn into beef and bacon they will secure a better return for their labor than by disposing of it at once.

THE question of the proper disposal of the garbage of large cities is a difficult one. In Philadelphia it was formerly carted down the "Neck" and distributed among the piggeries there kept. But the steady growth of the city caused rows of buildings to be erected in the neighborhood, and then complaints of the nuisance brought about the banishment of the pigs. Boats were then employed to carry the garbage a sufficient distance down the Delaware and to empty it there, just as from New York the scows are required to carry the refuse beyond the bay. Yet this imperfect system is tolerated only for want of a better. Sanitarians agree that the proper method is by incineration, and they assert it can be made profitable. But this process requires an expensive plant, and can only be made profitable by having a contract for several years. City legislation shows little favor to long-time contracts. Each annual shoal of legislators wants to dabble in the pool. The contractors in Philadelphia are pretending to incinerate what they collect, but are actually emptying some in the river and disposing of some to poudrette manufacturers on the outskirts of the city.

BRITISH authors have reaped a fair harvest from the United States by the present international copyright law. They are said, by one of their fraternity, to get one-fourth of their profits from this country. But there is an obstacle to their full enjoyment of this benefit. Canada has its own copyright law, under which reprints can be made of British books by paying stipulated rates. Some British authors find that these cheap Canadian reprints are interfering with their legitimate profits. Just so Gen. Lew Wallace found that the Canadian reprint of "Ben Hur" was being sold on railroads which crossed the border for 25 cents, when the price of the authorized edition was \$1.50. His complaint to the authorities at Washington had no effect on the practice. The total amount paid by Canada for the reprint of English copyright works is stated to be £970 in 1890, £573 in 1892, £364 in 1893 and £276 in 1894. This shows plainly a diminishing ratio, and may indicate Canada is gradually giving up the practice of reprinting.

THE question of bimetallism is discussed seriously and openly in Great Britain. The reckless abuse which in this country is showered upon those who venture to wish and argue for a return of silver to its former established place as a money of ultimate redemption is not allowed there to mar the proprieties of sober argument. The London *Times* has opened its columns to temperate controversy on the practicability and desirability of the restoration of the white metal as money. Elaborate articles are printed pro and con. It appears that the English professors of political economy all admit that bimetallism is practicable now, as it has been in ages past, and most that express their opinions declare it desirable. Those who are known to be opposed to it are keeping quiet for the present.

The assertion that is daily flaunted in the gold-monometallic press of this country that an established legal ratio between gold and silver cannot affect the market value is entirely abandoned in England. There the only question is as to the extent of the effect produced. But there is no doubt that if the civilized nations which since 1870 have demonetized silver should all agree to restore it to its proper function as money, the equilibrium would

be restored speedily. But hesitation is felt as to the result of one nation's taking the initiative. Hence the delay of men like Mr. Balfour. They are waiting for public opinion to compel them to act.

EMPEROR WILLIAM having concluded the celebration of the jubilee of the German Empire, sent his thanks to the people who from all parts of the world had congratulated him on the successful progress of his nation and government. After leading his army in some desperate sham manœuvres, he has received and warmly welcomed his brother Emperor, Francis Joseph of Austria. The interview is regarded as tending to unite more closely the policy of the two Empires, or at least to testify to the world the continuance of the alliance. There is said to be a positive understanding between England and Austria, and Emperor William appears to be cultivating the friendship of both these governments.

In these days when physical and mental activity to an extraordinary degree is required of all leaders of the people, no man is doing more to prove his right to his position than the exuberant Emperor of Germany. While half of his actions seem merely intended for display, there are also strong indications of a serious purpose to unite all classes of his subjects, and stimulate to the highest degree the spirit of nationality and loyalty. And the subsidence of complaints shows that he has undoubtedly succeeded where skillful observers predicted he must fail.

LORD SALISBURY has taken a firm stand with reference to the Turkish Government, and has practically, if not verbally, threatened the dismemberment of that Empire if effectual measures are not taken for the repression of the Armenian outrages. Yet the newspapers continue to bring details of outrages previously unknown, and proofs that these acts are part of a system authorized and directed by officials. At the same time it is a noteworthy fact that many of the high officials in all parts of the Empire are themselves Armenians. Even Reestem Pacha, the Ambassador to England, whose pathetic declaration of his predicament was recently published, belongs to this class. But these Armenian rulers appear to be altogether detached in sympathy from their unfortunate brethren in humble life who are exposed to the exactations of unscrupulous tax-gatherers and to the inroads of the irregular Kurdish cavalry.

THAT public opinion in Spain insists on the retention of Cuba, is shown most emphatically by Castelar's sending congratulations to Campos, though what he has to congratulate him upon is by no means clear. He has certainly failed of the boasts which he made at the outset of his campaign, and failed so far that it seemed not improbable that he was about to withdraw in disgust from the disagreeable duty imposed on him. But Spain, both government and people, is still determined to succeed, and is ready to send more men and money to effect its purpose.

The news from Cuba continues to indicate the progress of the insurgents, but they have not yet gained a seaport or attempted the serious task of forming a government. They are merely guerrillas. They have accomplished less than was done in the rising in 1868, which was prolonged into a ten years' war. It is asserted that the failure of that attempt was due to the non-interference of the United States. This is probably true. But the reasons then were not sufficient to justify foreign interference, and they are less strong to-day.

#### DILEMMA OF THE TREASURY.

PERVERSELY adhering to the gold standard and refusing to profit by the lessons of experience, Mr. Cleveland has involved the National Treasury in difficulties that must be insurmountable so long as we struggle under the load of a gold standard and a semi-free trade tariff resulting in a fall in prices, decrease in

the value of our exports, increase of imports and insufficiency of revenue. Not only is the Treasury embarrassed by a constantly growing deficit, but by the constant drain on the gold reserve. More than one-half of our national revenue is derived from custom duties, and under the mongrel Wilson-Gorman tariff—a tariff that removed protective duties from wool and reduced the duties on woolen goods, etc., and then sought to make good in part the deficiency in revenue thus caused by placing a duty on sugar—a tariff that removed protective duties from imports on such things as we raise or make at home, duties paid for the most part by the foreign importer endeavoring to undersell our producers, and which must result in encouraging home industries, bring the producer and consumer together and thus reduce the labor cost of production, while placing a duty on sugar which we cannot produce in sufficient quantity at home and which must ever be borne by the consumer of sugar as an increase of price, and finally a tariff that substitutes *ad valorem* for specific duties—the revenue has fallen as prices have fallen and the government has been unable to make receipts meet expenditures.

We have heard a great deal lately about rising prices, and so we may expect to hear the objection raised that the price of imported commodities has not fallen. But it is the undeniable fact that prices of imports for the fiscal year ending June 30th last were much lower than for the fiscal year 1894. Those who deny this will only expose their ignorance. Taking twenty-six representative commodities comprising in value 44.2 per cent. of our imports for 1895, we find that although the quantity of these imports increased nearly 14 per cent. the gross value was only \$323,034.846 in 1895, against \$320,865,943 in 1894. The prices of these imports were thus over 13 per cent. lower in 1895 than in 1894. For this reason we have not received the expected increase of revenue from the largely increased quantity of imports.

Secretary Carlisle, outwardly hopeful as ever of the future, depends upon an increase of imports and consequent increased custom receipts to make good in large part the growing deficit, a deficit that already amounts for July and August to over \$13,000,000. But here comes the dilemma of the Treasury. Increased imports must of course be paid for. Merchandise for export not being available, gold must be sent in payment, and the importers draw the gold from the Treasury. Mr. Carlisle hopes the cash balance of the Treasury may be strengthened and receipts be made to equal expenses as a result of increased imports; but just so soon as custom receipts increase, the drain on the Treasury for gold must also increase as the importers seek gold to pay for their imports. Relieved of one embarrassment, Mr. Carlisle would find himself confronted with another. With the President and Mr. Carlisle the question must always be either how to make both ends meet, or how to maintain gold payments.

The President has brought the Treasury to the brink of disaster. He has placed the Treasury in the helpless position where the resources can only be increased by increasing the drain on the gold reserve.

One would think that the necessity of borrowing to save the Treasury from bankruptcy would be humiliating even to the President, but Mr. Cleveland pursues without deviation, and with apparent calm indifference, his fixed purpose of adhering to the gold standard. At all cost the National Treasury must be made to subserve the interests of Wall Street money-lenders and their British allies.

The eulogizer of the administration through thick and thin will reproach us as a calamity howler, as a disturber of returning confidence. The facts are, indeed, disagreeable—more, they are even alarming; but is this reason to hide them? Are we to suppress the truth and go on with an unwarranted feeling of security, assumed cheerfulness and confidence until the crash is upon us? Is the prosperity of the country thus benefited?

Surely it is not. It is the imperative duty of every American to point out the dangers that confront us, meet them boldly and

endeavor to avert them. Nothing is more culpable than for newspapers to hide the truth and thus lure confiding readers to their ruin.

The gold-monometallists will tell us that there is no cause for alarm, for as imports increase so will exports; that therefore the receipts of the government will increase and the drain of gold cease at the same time. This has not been our experience during the past year. The facts are just the reverse. The value of imports has increased and exports decreased, and so it must continue so long as prices fall, for the fall in prices resulting from the appreciation of gold effects the commodities we export, cotton, wheat, etc., and which are extensively raised in silver countries for European markets, much more intimately than the commodities we import. Our articles of export compared to our articles of import have fallen in price since 1873 as 2 to 1. We may increase the quantity of our exports and imports, but we cannot hope to increase the value of our exports so long as prices fall. Our exports for the fiscal year 1895 declined in value from \$869,204,937 for 1894 to \$793,397,890. Did the quantity decrease correspondingly? On the contrary, we increased the quantity of sixteen of our principal exports, representing more than two-thirds of our exports, over 8 per cent.

If we had received the same prices in 1895 for our exports as we did in 1894, we would have received over \$950,000,000 instead of \$793,000,000. As a matter of fact, the quantity of our exports was greater last year than ever before, not excepting the banner year 1892, when our exports were valued at over \$1,000,000,000. In the light of these facts it is unreasonable to look for increased exports to offset our increased imports, which are increasing in quantity faster than they are falling in price.

The facts are so clear that he who runs may read. The longer we adhere to gold-monometallism the more burdensome becomes our position. That we cannot forever stand the strain is only too clear. The only question is, How long can we avert collapse by resorting to renewed borrowing?

#### GOLD AT PAR WITH ITSELF.

**G**OLD MONOMETALLISTS are prone to make much of the fact that gold bullion is at par with gold coin, and to ignore the fact that it is the right to free coinage that makes the bullion in our gold coins worth as much as a commodity as when coined. The fact that the mints are open to the unlimited coinage of gold makes bullion the equivalent of coin and it fixes the price of bullion in coin and of coin in bullion. Thus, the price of a gold dollar in bullion is always 25.8 grains of gold, and the price of 25.8 grains of gold in coin is ever 100 cents. Since silver was demonetized the purchasing power of the gold dollar has increased greatly. Gold coin and gold bullion have appreciated together.

Silver bullion does not bear the same relation to silver coins in gold-using countries as gold bullion does to gold coin, and because the bullion in the silver coins is not worth as much as a commodity as when coined, gold-monometallists tell us silver is only fit for token coinage and is not suitable for standard money. They point to the fact that the bullion and coin value of silver have fallen apart, but they ignore the reason. They do not stop to consider that the parity of gold bullion and coin is secured by privileges granted to gold but denied to silver.

Treat silver like gold, that is, freely convert bullion into coin without limit and at once the parity between silver bullion and silver coin will be assured, as it is between gold bullion and coin. Gold possesses no inherent qualities that give it stability of value, and that the bullion in the dollar is worth as a commodity 100 cents is due to the fact that bullion can be freely converted into coin, to this and nothing else.

Suppose that in view of the increased production of gold

in the Transvaal, the United States, England, France and Germany should decide to limit the coinage of gold to some hundred thousands of dollars a day, bought and coined on government account, what would happen? Would the value of gold bullion in gold coin still equal as a commodity the value of the coins? Certainly not. The owner of gold bullion having no longer the right to convert his bullion into coin, surely and without delay or cost, and desiring to realize on his bullion, must seek a purchaser. But a purchaser for the bullion at par with coin cannot be found, for the purchaser must be recompensed for the delays and risks he assumes in purchasing the bullion. Immediately all gold bullion would become simply merchandise with a fluctuating and speculative value measured by the gold coins in circulation, depending on three circumstances: First, the production of gold; second, the extent of the limited quantity of gold accepted by the mints for coinage, and third, the demand for use in the arts. The supply exceeding the demand for coinage; the excess would press for sale on the bullion market, and to the extent that this supply exceeded the demand for use in the arts, the price of bullion would fall.

This is what has happened to silver. Its market has been curtailed while the demand for gold has been broadened. The only wonder is that silver has maintained its value as well as it has. The demand for silver in the East has been almost, if not quite sufficient to maintain its value, not of course in relation to gold, but compared to other commodities. It is not so much silver that has depreciated, for, measured in anything else than gold, silver has fallen very little, as it is gold that has appreciated.

#### WASTING OUR NATIONAL WEALTH.

**D**URING the five years 1870-74, the planters of the United States raised 8,630,016,870 pounds of cotton, estimated by the Agricultural Department to have been worth \$1,491,467,000. For the five years 1890-94, 19,572,026,085 pounds of cotton were produced in the United States of an estimated value to the planter of \$1,503,281,271. The planters during the last period raised  $2\frac{2}{10}\%$  pounds of cotton where they raised one in the first, but they only received  $\frac{1}{10}$  of 1 per cent. more for the  $2\frac{2}{10}\%$  pounds of cotton in the years 1890-94 than they did for the 1 pound of cotton for the years 1870-74. Cotton had fallen over 55 per cent. If the cotton growers had realized prices current during the years 1870-74 for the crops raised in the years 1890-94, they would have received \$3,385,960,512 instead of \$1,503,281,271.

During the five years 1870-74, the farmers of the United States raised 1,305,961,600 bushels of wheat, valued at \$1,461,159,940, while for the crops of wheat harvested in the five years 1890-94, amounting to 2,383,390,141 bushels, the farmers received \$1,609,431,676. In other words,  $1\frac{8}{10}\frac{2}{5}\%$  bushels of wheat were raised in the second period for every one in the first, but the farmers only received 10 per cent. more in money for a crop 82 per cent. greater in quantity. Wheat had fallen 39.7 per cent., so instead of realizing \$2,667,013,567 for their crops of wheat in the second period, which they would have done if they had received prices current in the first period, they received only \$1,609,431,676.

As with the planter and wheat farmer, so with the sheep raiser. The clip of wool in the United States for the years 1870-74, amounting to 800,000,000 pounds, was valued at \$450,400,000. For the five years 1890-94, the production of wool amounted to 1,456,210,384 pounds, but its value was only \$458,706,270. For 656,000,000 more pounds of wool the sheep raiser only realized \$8,000,000 more. The production of wool had increased 82 per cent., but the value of the clip less than 2 per cent.

In other words, owing to the fall in the prices of these three staple commodities since 1870-74, the planter received \$1,883,000,000 less for his cotton raised during the years 1890-94 than he otherwise would, the farmer \$1,058,000,000 less for his wheat,

and the sheep raiser \$361,000,000 less for his wool. The planter, the farmer and the sheep raiser had this much less cash to pass through their hands than they otherwise would have had.

But the gold-monometallists, the very men who told us the fall in prices so much spoken of was for the most part imaginary, who insisted that goods might have fallen but that gold could not have risen, that any fall in prices that has occurred has been caused by overproduction or perhaps the cheapening of production, these very same gold-monometallists object to the presentation of these figures as misleading. They tell us cotton, wheat, and wool are exceptions, or that though the cash the farmer and planter receives for his wheat or cotton or wool is much less, the smaller amount of cash received goes as far, or even further, to-day than the larger sum did twenty years ago; and that, therefore, the farmer is better off. We will see.

We fancy that such arguments as these, advanced by Professor Laughlin or Mr. Atkinson, would not be well received by an audience of farmers or planters. The agricultural classes know too well that wheat and cotton and wool are not the only products that have fallen in price, and they have felt the fall in prices too severely to be talked into believing that which their very senses tell them is not so, namely, that the fall in prices has not injured them.

First as to the assertion that wheat, cotton and wool are the only products of agriculture that have fallen materially in price. Taking the prices for 1870-74 as normal, wheat sold as an average on the farm for 56.1 per cent. less in 1894, corn 9.7 per cent. less, oats 21 per cent. less, barley 48.1 per cent. less, rye 37.2 per cent. less, cotton 59.5 per cent. less, wool 60.5 per cent. less, horses 50.3 per cent., mules 48.2 per cent., cows 32.4 per cent., other cattle 29.9 per cent., sheep 41.5 per cent. It is no wonder the gold-monometallists point to corn and extract what grains of comfort from it that they can. Taking these twelve products of agriculture together we find a general fall in price of 41.2 per cent.

The gold dollar, then, costs the farmer at least 70 per cent. more exertion to-day than it did in 1870-74. He receives for his wheat 56.1 per cent. less, for his cotton 59.5 per cent. less, for the twelve products given above and taken together without regard to importance 41.2 per cent. less. The question then is: Does the smaller amount he receives for the products of his labor go as far as the larger amount he received twenty years ago? Mr. Atkinson and Professor Laughlin present figures showing that it does. The farmer does not feel that his labor is better rewarded to-day than before 1873, that the same amount of products will buy for him more of the products of others to-day than ever before, but Mr. Atkinson assures him it is the case. Is the suffering of the practical farmer imaginary or is theoretical Mr. Atkinson at fault?

Mr. Atkinson reasons from assumptions. He assumes the farmer buys at wholesale, whereas he does not, and he assumes the farmer goes direct to the manufacturer when he buys his tools, while, as a matter of fact, he buys from an agent. As a result, Mr. Atkinson naturally concludes that the proceeds of the sale of the farmer's products go farther than they really do.

But what is of more consequence Mr. Atkinson ignores the fact that the farmers are loaded down with fixed charges that call for as many dollars when wheat is at 50 cents as when it sells for \$1. Rent, taxes, interest, all become more burdensome as prices fall, and it takes a greater quantity of produce to raise the number of dollars required to meet these charges. But this is not all; prices at which the farmer sells, falling faster than wages and retail prices at which he buys, profits of farming are destroyed and production is curtailed, which entails a dead loss on the country. When the farming classes are not prosperous, the country cannot be prosperous, for as Secretary Morton truly said some years ago, "Everybody knows that the successful perpetuation of the industrial activities of the American people is based, and possible only, upon an intelligent and fecund agriculture."

When we are not making full use of our resources, agricultural and other, we are wasting absolutely our national wealth, for lost time is never found again. It is wealth lost for ever. The losses suffered by the producing classes are for the most part no one's gain.

Let us look a little further. Farm dwellers furnish the 74 per cent. of our exports. By adhering to the gold-standard, we have cut the prices of these farm products in half and thereby deliberately impoverished our country. We have depressed the prices of the products we export much further than the prices of the commodities we import from Europe have fallen, and to this extent we are unconsciously taxing ourselves for the benefit of Europe. The 3,500,000,000 pounds of cotton and the 76,000,000 bushels of wheat we exported last year brought no more money to the producer than the 1,200,000,000 pounds of cotton and the 39,000,000 bushels of wheat exported in 1873. At prices of 1873 our exports last year would have brought \$1,746,800,330, instead of \$793,397,890; our imports would have cost us \$1,152,504,272, instead of \$731,957,875. These figures are not mere estimates, but based on actual calculations of commodities representing 67.1 per cent. of our exports, and 44.2 per cent. of our imports. In other words, we would have received \$953,000,000 more for our exports, paid \$420,000,000 more for our imports. Increased interest charges aside, we taxed ourselves last year for the benefit of Europe (by adhering to the gold standard) the enormous sum of \$533,000,000, sufficient to meet the expenses of our national government, and \$150,000,000 besides. We have wasted, squandered our national wealth quite long enough.

#### WHAT WE MAY EXPECT FROM ENGLAND.

IT is generally recognized by the coterie of bankers of Lombard Street that the increased value of the gold standard depresses prices and alters the meaning of all contracts. The gold-monometallists of England do not, like the gold-monometallists here, support monometallism on the ground that gold forms a stable measure of value. They do not deny that gold has appreciated, that the fall in prices has been due to this cause, and that all debts have been arbitrarily increased, but they advocate the maintenance of the gold standard from the purely selfish grounds: First, that England is a great creditor nation, and, therefore, interested in everything which increases the value of the gold due her creditor classes, and second, that England buys abroad her cotton and the greater part of her food while she sells manufactured articles, and, therefore, England profits from anything that depresses the prices paid for cotton and wheat further than the prices received for her manufactured articles. The English farmer is ruined. No matter: the wage-earner is ground down, the manufacturer finds his customers impoverished and his market gone; but all this makes no difference to the English gold-monometallists. In the eyes of Sir W. Harcourt and other gold-monometallists, the interests of the creditor classes must be looked after even at the sacrifice of all other classes.

No wonder Professor Foxwell, referring to the appreciation of gold resulting in the robbery of the industrious classes, in the name of sanctity of contract, by the subtle falsification of the standard of value, writes with mortification: "I might reply with Mr. Beeton that such falsification of contracts is base and immoral. It would be unworthy of a great country to make fraud the aim of its monetary policy. Even Shylock only pressed for his pound of flesh."

Mr. Beeton assures us there never was a time when wrongs were more readily recognized and redressed, and he speaks of the growing sensitiveness of the public conscience as giving ground for the belief that once the rulers of England are aroused to the enormity of the injustice perpetrated by the gold standard, they will no longer stand in the way, but aid the establishment of international bimetallism. But Mr. Beeton's faith is not reassuring

to the American who has not a very high opinion of John Bull's conscientious scruples. Rather Americans take the view of Mr. Grenfell and of Professor Foxwell, who appeal not so much to the conscience as to the pocket of the creditor classes of Great Britain. Interest, not generosity, will alone make converts to bimetallism among the money-lending classes of Great Britain.

When England recognizes that her greatest interests, her material prosperity, rest on the solvency of her debtors and the prosperity of her customers, "both of them sapped and endangered by the insidious progress of the appreciation of gold" (Professor Foxwell), then, and not until then, will the English creditor classes advocate bimetallism. As Professor Foxwell says, "As generally happens the immoral is also the inexpedient," and as the English manufacturer and creditor finds this out he becomes a convert to bimetallism. This is the explanation of the strength of bimetallism in the English Cabinet.

But the knowledge that the conversion to bimetallism of the creditor classes of Great Britain follows the insolvency of their debtors is poor comfort to the producers and debtors in America and elsewhere, at the expense of whose ruin converts in England are made. Our producers are ruined, driven to irretrievable insolvency before the English creditor feels any loss. If we wait for relief from England it will come only after our spirit of independence has been broken, our producing classes have submitted in despair to the extortions of the monopolists of money and submitted to the yoke of virtual slavery.

If we would preserve our independence we should learn to act independently, to rely upon our own resources, and not to wait upon England to ask permission to restore our prosperity. We have paid tribute to England by doubling the quantity of wheat and tripling the quantity of cotton exported to pay for imports and meet interest charges on our foreign debt quite long enough.

#### WOMAN'S WAYS.

WHEN I was courting—ah, the happy times!  
"Sun of my life," I called her in my rhymes.  
Now we are wed I find that she can be  
The sun that sometimes makes it hot for me.

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Without hearts there is no home.

\*\*

Queen Elizabeth was very profane, and when angry would kick and cuff her maids.

\*\*

The rage for ugly bloomers for women cyclists is fast giving away to the more becoming and just as convenient abbreviated skirt.

\*\*

At a library the other day a young woman called for "The Last Days of Pompeii," at the same time asking, "What did he die of?" The librarian, nothing abashed, replied, "Well, I'm not quite sure, but it was either convulsions or an eruption."

\*\*

Out of 1,486 ex-students of Girton, Newham, Somerville Hall, Holloway and Alexandra, the women's colleges of England, only 208 are reported as married. This leads to the conclusion that the more learned a woman is the less use she has for a husband.

\*\*

Never be sentimental in the daytime. Reason should run its course with the sun and romance not begin until sunset at least. It is overlooking this almost self-evident rule which has made so many girls wearying to their fiancés and so many wives a bore to their husbands.

\*\*

No man likes his wife to be merely his echo, but there are times when he wants to be agreed with, when it seems sweet and soothing and sympathetic to feel that his judgment guides hers, and that she accepts his estimate of men and things. He will be more ready so think with her upon other occasions.

Rough, red arms are a source of much annoyances to many women, especially to those who are given to wearing short sleeves. They should be washed every night in very hot water, and scrubbed vigorously until quite red with a coarse Turkish towel. Before drying rub in a little lemon juice mixed with an equal amount of lime water.

\*\*

Miss Burta Grace Boyd is known as the Grace Darling of St. Croix. She has charge of the Ledge Light, about six miles below St. Stephen, N. B. She won her title twelve years ago by saving, alone and unaided, two sailors from certain death, a deed of bravery recognized by the Dominion Government, which presented a lifeboat and a gold watch to the young woman.

\*\*

Plaids are threatening to come in again in numbers in the fall. They are becoming to but a few women, and need to be selected and arranged with great skill to make them durable. No woman who cannot have a great many changes of dress should select a plaid or a large and pronounced effect of any sort. It will be the thing, of course, to pick out your family plaid if you have a drop of Scotch blood in your veins.

#### A CHAPTER ABOUT CHILDREN.

Give me thy heart, O little child,  
Just for one golden hour;  
Thine eyes of passion undefiled,  
Thy soft cheek's peachy dower.  
Give me thy curls that float and fall  
In tangles sweet and wild;  
But more than all, oh, more than all,  
Give me thy heart, O child;  
Oh, glad child's heart!

FREDERICK LANGBRIDGE.

\*\*

A minister took his three-year-old girl to a funeral, and when he lifted her up to see the body she innocently looked up in his face and said, "Why, papa, he's as dead as a hammer!"

\*\*

A good deal of nonsense is sometimes published about sending children to bed with full stomachs. This is well enough so long as a babe is an animal and has not awakened to much use of the brain, but as soon as a child has come to an age of active thought he should have a chance for light exercise and sport after his meals, never, however, allowing him to go to bed excited. Above all things to be deprecated is the stormy season so frequently indulged in just at retiring. The child prefers to sit up and invariably retires in a storm of passion, added to by the storm of nurse or parent. He should be calmly and firmly restrained from all such outbreaks. There is a great difference in children about retiring. Some very active brains grow sleepy and desire to retire early; others equally active grow wakeful and excited.

\*\*

"My dear child, are there not many things you would like to know?"

"Oh, yes!" exclaimed the little girl delightedly. "I would like to know what makes there come such a lot of colors in the water bottles, and why the crumbs jump up when we slaps the table, and ——"

"Be quiet, Barbara!" said the governess, angrily.

"But you asked me," exclaimed Babs bewildered by the rebuke.

"You were saying your lesson, remember. The answer is 'Yes.'"

"Yes, please, I 'spose," interrupted the little girl.

Miss Grimston returned to the book.

"Pray, then, what is bread made of?"

"Dough and barm," replied Babs, promptly. "I've often seen cook make bread at Cloverdale. Teddy and I used each to have a piece to make little men with bead eyes what grew fat in the baking."

"Silence!" cried the governess in despair; "that is not the right answer."

"Isn't bread made of dough and barm in London? It always is in the country, I know."

"The answer is 'Flour.' What were you thinking of, Barbara, when I read this lesson to you?"

Babs looks doubtful for a minute. "I was thinking about what makes you have so many more bones in your hand than other people's," she said, candidly.

"Be quiet, Barbara! How dare you be so rude?"

"Am I rude? I didn't know, but you is so funny," continued the little girl; "you keep asking questions, and when I answers them you say, 'Be quiet.'"

"You are a very naughty, pert little girl, and I shall put you in the corner."

"What's that?" asked Babs with interest. Hitherto she had been quite ignorant of nursery penalties.

"Go and stand in that corner with your face to the wall."

Babs cheerfully complied.

"What happens now?" she asked a minute afterward.

"You will remain there until you are good."

"I'se like a cow what's in a stall," laughed Babs. "Teddy, I'se pretendin' I'se dear Flossy. We've never played this game afore."

"Be silent, Barbara!" cried Miss Grimston, in the last stage of irritation. "It is not a game at all, it is a disgrace."

Babs then began to make a sort of gentle munching sound, and occasionally shook out the ends of her sash.

"That's Flossy's tail whisking," she murmured, quite content.

#### A WORD WITH THE DOCTOR.

NEVER go to bed with cold or damp feet. Never omit regular bathing, for unless the skin is in active condition the cold will close the pores and favor congestion and other diseases.

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The very best disinfectant and deodorizer known is copperas. A double handful dissolved in a bucket of water and used to wash drain pipes and receptacles of waste material will keep such places above suspicion. The water in pitchers and flower holders should be changed every day. On attention to such seemingly trivial details may hang a human life.

\*\*

Fruits are generally healthful, they cool the blood, and, by their aperient qualities, aid in digesting other foods, but they do not agree with all systems; in that instance they produce a sour stomach, ferment instead of being digested, cause irritation and often produce eruptions on the skin. Unripe and decayed fruits are not eatable, but good fruits are generally wholesome. A well person must know what to eat and what not to eat to remain so.

\*\*

"The *Sun* Cholera Cure," so-called from its having been published in the *New York Sun* during the last cholera epidemic, was used with great success then, and has ever since been in use as a remedy for diarrhoea and similar diseases, which it controls in a perfectly marvelous manner. "Equal parts each of tincture cayenne pepper, tincture opium, tincture rhubarb, essence peppermint, spirits camphor. Take one-half teaspoonful, in water, every two hours; in severe cases, one teaspoonful every half hour." If taken at first appearance of cholera symptoms, this is said to be a certain cure. The prudent and considerate head of a family will see the wisdom of having this mixture promptly made up by a careful druggist for immediate use in case of necessity. Get it at once.

#### SOCIOLOGICAL SUBJECTS.

IF God be for us, who can be against us?—*Romans, viii. 31.*

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The golden moments in the stream of life rush past us, and we see nothing but sand; the angels come and visit us, and we only know them when they are gone.—*George Eliot.*

\*\*

The colored people living in Berlin held a festival in that city recently, which attracted many of the prominent people of the capital. One of the best speakers made an address, as became a good adopted citizen, in eulogy of the German Emperor. Negroes in the Fatherland have reason to be content with their lot. They are received on an equality with whites, and are often called "brunettes."

\*\*

Prof. William Jones, of Harvard, in his text-book on psychology, says: "Could the young but realize how soon they will become mere walking bundles of habits they would give more

heed to their conduct while in the plastic state. Every smallest stroke of virtue or of vice leaves its scar. The drunken Rip Van Winkle in Jefferson's play excuses himself for every fresh dereliction by saying, 'I won't count this time.' Well, he may not count it, and a kind heaven may not count it, but it is being counted none the less. Down among the nerve cells and fibers the molecules are counting it, registering and storing it up, to be used against him when the next temptation comes. Nothing we ever do is, in strict scientific literalness, wiped out. Of course, this has its good side as well as its bad one. As we become permanent drunkards by so many separate drinks, so we become saints in the moral, and authorities and experts in the practical and scientific, spheres by so many separate acts and hours of work."

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Outside of Illinois it is not known what a fearful record Governor Altgeld has made as a pardoner of criminals. From a complete list of the pardons granted by him between March 7, 1893, and May 2, 1895, published in Chicago—a list showing the name of each convict, the date of conviction, the crime, the term of sentence and other incidental facts—it appears that Governor Altgeld has pardoned twenty-two murderers, forty-three burglars, six guilty of manslaughter, three of rape, seventeen of larceny, six each of robbery and forgery, five of embezzlement and thirty-five guilty of other offenses. Some few of these pardons are justifiable; but a careful examination of the list has led the *Chicago Tribune* to remark that the Governor has shown his sympathy "especially for those whose offenses were the most odious. Although he was himself for some years a judge, he has sneered at judges, and juries, and gone on emptying the penitentiaries." It is specially unfortunate for Illinois that this man's term of office does not expire until 1897.

#### NOTES ABOUT NEWSPAPERS.

CITY EDITOR—How is Pennington on spelling, anyway?

Managing Editor—Well, he is a little too quaint for ordinary English, and not quaint enough for dialect.

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If you haven't *To-Day* on your study or library table, you miss the companionship and aid of a carefully edited magazine. *To-Day* is a monthly review devoted to religion, reforms and current literature. It is one of the cheapest of our magazines, and is published by Frederick A. Bisbee, 1628 Master Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

\*\*

Zola has just won a lawsuit about "Lourdes" against the *Gil Blas*. The newspaper had agreed to pay him \$10,000 for the story for its *feuilleton*, but refused to keep the agreement on the ground that the novelist had at the same time allowed the story to appear in foreign papers, and that it had been published in book form a month before it could be completed in its columns. As there was nothing in the contract to prevent this, Zola got his money.

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Since the first day of its issue, the Doylestown (Pa.) *Intelligencer* has never used a line of "boiler-plate matter." It has always been a reliable, consistent and trustworthy newspaper, and it is safe to predict will continue to deserve the confidence and good wishes of its big constituency in Bucks County and its immediate neighborhood. The *Intelligencer* entered on its tenth year last week, and has waxed as prosperous and fat as its growth has been wholesome and natural.

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The *Boot and Shoe Recorder*, Boston, Mass., in its Western department, says that Mr. Thomas Tonge, Secretary of the Manufacturers' Exchange, of Denver, Col., "is continually fighting for home manufactures, and the *Denver Times* also lends constant and valuable aid in that direction." The experience of THE AMERICAN is that Mr. Tonge and the *Times* are lively hustlers, both of them animated with an earnest desire to promote Denver's best interests. If they don't succeed in their efforts, Denver and its people will be in fault.

## SOME QUERIES ANSWERED.

P. BOYLE, Phila.—The skin of the Indian is thinner than that of either the white or the negro and more easily torn.

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MELINDA L., Radnor, Pa.—Vinegar and yeast should never be kept in stone jars, for there is an acid in them which attacks the glazing, and mixing with it has a poisoning property.

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HENRY WILSON, Phila.—The difference between them may be briefly told: Tact is the life of the five senses. It is the open eye, the quick ear, the judging taste, the keen smell and the lively touch. Talent is power, tact is skill; talent is might, tact is momentum; talent knows what to do, tact how to do it; talent is wealth, tact ready money.

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JAMES JACKSON, West Phila.—Margarine has been examined for bacteria, and is found to be freer from them than butter. The average in butter was 10,000,000 to 20,000,000 microbes to a gramme; in one extreme case 47,000,000. The average in margarine was 4,000,000. Cold reduced the margarine microbes from 6,500,000 to 230,000, while it only killed off one-third of those of butter; moreover, no pathogenic bacteria were discovered in the imitation.

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HENRY PHILLIPS, Atlantic City, N. J.—Owing to the occasional damage done to the fishermen's nets by what appeared to be fragments of masonry in the sea off the Italian peninsula of Istria, the city authorities of Robingo sent down a diver the other day to investigate. At a depth of 90 feet he found himself in a submerged city, with streets and squares laid out, the doors and windows of the half-ruined houses being almost hidden by masses of seaweed. Archaeologists identify this lost city with the island and city of Cissa, described by Pliny, and of which no trace has been found since the days of the Cæsars.

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J. SEABOLDT, New York.—Character reading from handwriting, from shoes and from the face has now been succeeded by character reading from the teeth. A dentist explains in a contemporary that a careful study of teeth will reveal the fact that they invariably indicate, according to their shape and setting, the temperament of their possessors. One has only to note the teeth of one's friends and relations to verify his observation on pointed, projecting, short, square, tangled, even and pearly dentures. Those that are long and narrow, we are assured, denote vanity, those that are long and projecting indicate a grasping disposition; treachery is shown by the possession of small, white separated teeth, and inconstancy is revealed by overlapping teeth.

## MEN YOU READ ABOUT.

THE path of a President in France is always difficult. They are now objecting to President Faure that he makes himself too popular.

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Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, says that the Dakota Indians once held a war dance near a mission house. He went to Wabasha, the chief, and said: "Wabasha, you asked me for a missionary and teacher. I gave them to you. I visit you, and the first sight is this brutal scalp dance. I knew the Chippeway whom your young men have murdered. His wife is crying for her husband; his children are asking for their father. Wabasha, the Great Spirit hears his children cry. He is angry. Some day he will ask Wabasha, 'Where is your red brother?'" The old chief smiled, drew his pipe from his mouth and said: "White man go to war with his own brother in the same country; kill more men than Wabasha can count in all his life. Great Spirit smiles; says, 'Good white man! He has my book. I love him very much. I have a good place for him by-and-by.' The Indian is a wild man. He has no Great Spirit book. He kills one man; has a scalp dance. Great Spirit is mad and says, 'Bad Indian! I put him in a bad place by-and-by.' Wabasha don't believe it."

## OUR LONDON LETTER.

LONDON, August 31, 1895.

BIMETALLISTS here are much surprised at the very erroneous interpretations which have been put upon Mr. Balfour's reply to Sir John Leng—to which I alluded in my last letter—by not only their opponents, but even by their friends. The reply which had no other effect here than that of confirming the hopes of bimetallists seems to have been taken by those who received the news through the cable as almost a renunciation by Mr. Balfour of the belief which he has so long held, and they have committed the very grievous and very unfortunate error of supposing that England has officially declared she will have nothing to do with any projected conference. The only fault of the answer was its brevity, which rather tended to put a different complexion on it to that which Mr. Balfour intended. He should have made it a little more elaborate and complete. In any case, however, Mr. Balfour's words do not admit in the smallest degree of the construction which have been attached to them. He said: "I am, as I have always been, strongly in favor of an international agreement, but I have no right to pledge my colleagues on the subject, nor have I any grounds for thinking that such an agreement would, at the present moment, be the result of an international conference. A second abortive conference would be a serious misfortune." This opinion is thoroughly bimetallic; if it had been given to Germany and the United States without disfigurement it could only have produced the most favorable impressions there. But the *Times*, and, indeed, nearly all the London press, left out the words "at the present moment," thus entirely altering the sense. No doubt this edition was the first intimation that currency reformers abroad received, and it must have worked its inevitable result of despondency. Mr. Balfour, however, in order that not the slightest doubt should be attached to the reply, caused to be published a couple of days later a repudiation of the *Times*' report, and a substantiation of the words "at the present moment." This reassuring information does not seem to have had the effect abroad that one would consider it was reasonably entitled to. It was only to be supposed that the apprehensive feelings which the erroneous—one might almost say untruthful—message caused would at once have been removed by the second containing an extreme qualification. But whether this has been the case or not, it was plainly apparent to those who watch the progress of affairs here that the report that Mr. Balfour had repudiated the idea of a conference, and had intimated that England would have nothing to do with it, was a *canard* of the most miserable description. Again, the question of Sir John Leng, viz., "to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in consonance with the views he has repeatedly expressed, he will advise her Majesty's government to invite an international conference in order to arrive at an international agreement on the most stable basis for an international currency," was in itself an absurdity, which laid itself open to a most crushing reply, even from the friendliest of Ministers. England never has invited a conference, and never will. Sir John Leng must have been perfectly well aware of this, and should have framed his question differently. The duty of calling a conference has always fallen upon one of the powers who have hitherto taken a prominent part in the advocacy of monetary reform, and among these, England, although always willing to allow herself to be represented at a conference, has never had a place. So Sir John Leng's question was to no purpose whatever from a bimetallic point of view, and Mr. Balfour's answer to it must be taken as eminently favorable, when one considers the anomalous interrogation to which he had to reply.

Great Britain's attitude to the question of a conference was treated on in my last letter. It is widely recognized here that she will not look unkindly upon any arrangement of a character which will tend to dispose of this vexed question. But the conference that is to be will be unlike all the conferences that have

been, in so far as it will mark the end and not the beginning of all international negotiations. Among the many theories that are held in this connection, one that I heard the other day from an eminent bimetallist here appears to be the most practicable and is very generally accepted.

This view is that as a result of the diplomatic correspondence which will take place between the great powers in this connection a committee of experts will be appointed in each country who will consider, firstly, whether the adoption of bimetallism—for the whole question centers itself upon this: whether we are to have bimetallism or remain as we are—would affect the well-being of the world's trade and industry generally, and secondly, whether the adoption of bimetallism would affect the well-being of the trade and industry of their own country. Their deliberations would be private, and the committee would have a ready access to all national and international records, authorities, etc. In their report, which would be presented to their government in due course, they would give an absolute and final decision as to what results they consider might reasonably follow from the adoption of bimetallism. The nations who would be concerned in this arrangement would then exchange these reports, and a draft report drawn from the decisions of all the national committees would be agreed upon. A conference could then safely be called, and it would meet to ratify the terms of this great treaty. This method would have this advantage, that it would prevent a conference of such a composition as the Brussels conference ever meeting, and it would exclude from participating in the preliminary and even in the final negotiations such irresponsible bigots as Messrs. Bertram Currie & Co., and as the proceedings of the experts in each country would be strictly private, the press could exhibit none of the wild prejudice that it cherishes in this regard. Above all, the method would have the merit of comparative simplicity.

Now such a conference is not the work of an instant; the very nature of the preliminary arrangements will render it impossible for it to be held at a near date. So Mr. Balfour's answer as to the non-effectiveness of a premature conference squares exactly with the opinion of all bimetallists here. And it is felt to be most unfortunate that a mischievous misreport should have—for bimetallists abroad—robbed his answer of the charm which it undoubtedly has for bimetallists in Great Britain. It is to be hoped that all in America and on the Continent will, without any delay, look upon this last utterance upon the subject as being satisfactory; indeed, they can hardly do otherwise when the facts of the case are presented to them.

G. W.

#### BRIC-A-BRAC.

“YELLOW NED” is the picturesque name the Chesapeake fishermen give to the beautiful yellow perch so abundant in those waters. The fish are peddled from wagons in many parts of the peninsula, and are astonishingly cheap, as, indeed, are nearly all food fish native to that amphibious region.

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We must, doubtless, look to the Jews for the origin of godfathers and godmothers. The use of them in the primitive church is so early that it is not easy to fix a time for their beginning. Some of the most ancient Fathers make mention of them, and through all the successive ages afterwards we find the use of them continued without any interruption. By a constitution of Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1236, and in a synod held at Worcester in 1240, a provision was made that there should be for every male child two godfathers and one godmother, and for every female one godfather and two godmothers. King Henry VIII., referring to the Princess Elizabeth, says—

My lord of Canterbury,  
I have a suit which you must not deny me—  
That is, a fair young maid that yet wants baptism;  
You must be godfather and answer for her.

Henry VIII., Act 5, Scene 3.

#### OUR PARIS LETTER.

PARIS, August 30, 1895.

THE Macedonian “insurrection” is dead and buried; in point of fact, there never was a “Macedonia” insurrection, but merely an irruption into Macedonia of a lot of Bulgarian bandits to whom the native Macedonians showed from first to last decided hostility, acting in concert with the Turkish troops for their dispersion and capture. Some of these exotic so-called “patriots” succeeded in getting away; a number of them have been made prisoners and—mark the cleverness of the Porte—they will be judged at Salonica for crimes committed against common law: arson, robbery and murder, but *not* for any political crime by which no pretext can be urged for the intervention of any foreign philanthropist. And so collapses Humpty Dumpty No. 1, whose fall will be closely followed by that of his near relative, Humpty Dumpty No. 2, otherwise the Armenian question, which “all the King's horses and all the King's men,” Mr. Gladstone and Exeter Hall, can never “set upon his legs again,” at least for a long time to come, since Russia has officially assured the Sultan that Southeastern Armenia, being an integral part of the Ottoman Empire, his rights over that province would be respected. This seems to put an end to all agitation on that point, and as there is good reason to suppose that a *modus vivendi* between Russia and Bulgaria, acceptable to all parties therein concerned, is in process of arrangement, there would be also good reason to argue that all the black specks on the international political sun had disappeared, if our attention were not attracted to the sudden, and apparently unjustifiable explosion of gallophobia manifested by British journalists and British pamphleteers.

#### THE MILK IN THE COCONUT.

Why this manifestation? Why these virulent attacks on France of the British press and its collaborators the amateur strategists, who, since the publication of the famous *Battle of Dorking*, have been relatively quiet. True, when the project of a sub-channel tunnel was mooted we were inflicted with a series of tracts: *How John Bull Lost London, or The Taking of the Tunnel*; *The Battle of Boulogne*, and *How Calais Again became a British City*, or words to that effect, wherein the author ventilated Britannia's regrets for the surrender of that seaport some 400 years ago; then came the naval engagement of Port Said and the annihilation of the combined French and Turkish fleets by the British ironclads, and, later, *The Battle of London*, an extra-lucid phantasy, showing the valorous prodigies accomplished by the doughty Wolseley, whose laurels were won in fierce conflicts with the Ashantees, and in that terrible, though cheap, victory at Tel-el-Kebir. All of these things were indescribably funny, but the climax and grotesqueness has been reached by the anonymous perpetrator of the *Radical Nightmare*, or what England may become forty years from now, should the proletarians get the upper hand; it is ascribed to an M. P., and if this particular M. P. be a fair specimen, his pamphlet gives an elevated idea of the intellectual standard of the British House of Commons. I seldom discuss matters and things in England, but this insanity, one of the most beautiful of its kind ever published in any language and in any country, has an international, not a merely local, bearing, and therefore may be noticed. Like John Bunyan, the author has a dream—probably the consequence of too copious libations—England is the prey of the Radicals; the old Queen is dead, her successor, Albert Edward, is forced to flee in the disguise of a “dynamiter”; anarchy reigns supreme; law and justice are mere memories of the past; all religion is banished from the land and Albion has ceased to be more than a geographical expression. Still the dreamer has consolation; France is even worse off than England; a fearful civil war, a general and atrocious massacre, the destruction, by dynamite, of her principal cities, and finally a German invasion and the capture of Paris, after a siege of two days, remove Gaul from the list of nations.

Then appears Bismarck, the *deus ex machina* of all European combinations. N. B.—At the expiration of the author's forty-years period, Bismarck would be somewhere about one hundred and twenty years of age and, perhaps, might be a trifle old to be an affecting *deus ex machina*. However, this does not matter in a dream and Bismarck proposes an arrangement: the Britons should cross the channel and colonize France. They accept, and an Anglo-German Parliament sitting in Paris distributes among them everything that formerly belonged to the aborigines of whom all who still resist entire extinction "by their bad national habits and licentiousness" (*sic*) become hewers of wood and drawers of water, losing even their native tongue, which will be classed henceforward among the dead languages, like ancient Greek and Sanscrit. Nor is this funny man more indulgent towards other nationalities: Austria and Italy are united under the same scepter; Russia collapses in bankruptcy; the last of her Czars escapes on board of an American whaling ship and is heard of no more, and in this universal cataclysm the only institution that prospers is the Suez Canal, thanks to the intelligent management of Mr. Cook, the "eminent" excursionist!

Such is a brief summary of this idiotic lucubration in which Mr. Labouchere is called *Mr. Laboulangier* and Lord Salisbury, *Lord Paulbury*; it is neither witty nor humorous; it might never have been noticed, if certain recent questions in the House of Commons had not attracted public attention to the evident manœuvres of a certain clique of politicians to create a current of Francophobia; but it may have mischievous effects, in so much as it will be misinterpreted on the Continent, as a reflex of the sentiments of the British nation, instead of being, as we hope it is, nothing more than the distempered raving of some incorrigible *jingo*, belonging to a class, found even in other climes, which deems to ignore everything that happens beyond the frontiers of their own country.

#### HOW THEY HARASS BISMARCK.

The introduction of Bismarck's action into this "sounding brass and tinkling cymbal" effusion is particularly illustrative of this tendency to consider all so-called *foreigners* as "common and unclean." It might have been avoided had its inventor read what is thought and said about that old gentleman by the German press, distinctly divided into two categories: the Bismarckian and the Anti-Bismarckian, between which has begun a serious controversy *in re* Bismarck's actual state of mind.

Bismarck is not content; he has rarely been so since his fall five years ago made of him a sort of political corpse, but this time he explodes undisguisedly.

A Hamburg newspaper not in his service ventured to speak of the "physical depression" of the Prince. "To judge from the tone of his own organs," answered the Strasburg *Post*, "the term *irritation* would be more exact and expressive." "More suitable still," put in the Hamburg *News*, the ex-Chancellor's devoted mouthpiece, "it would be to qualify as a sort of *harrowing emotion*, this statesman's feelings, in presence of the march of events in Germany."

We are then edified as to his situation: Bismarck is neither "irritated" nor yet "depressed"; he is only "harrowed" by the sight of what is happening daily in that Empire of which he was one of the founders. A year ago this language would have surprised no one. General de Caprivi was then Chancellor, and his predecessor never pardoned the man who succeeded him in office, and who had won a genuine title to the gratitude of all lovers of liberty and constitutional order by his firm opposition to that reaction which was threatened in Germany after Carnot's assassination, and which was the keystone of Bismarck's policy. Since then circumstances have changed sufficiently to warrant the expectation of some corresponding change in the attitude of Prince Otto. Count von Caprivi had been sacrificed to the reactionary tendencies of the Prussian squirearchy and to the implacable re-

sentments of the Bismarckian coterie. His successor is an ancient collaborator, a disciple, a fast and devoted friend of Prince Bismarck, who, on his accession, hastened to render homage to his mutual and moral suzerain, whose home platform seemed to have been adopted. And while German statesmen with much flourish of trumpets affected to seek at Friedrichsruh their orientation, the German Emperor lavished marks of favor, of gratitude, of veneration upon the last of the paladins of the modern Charlemagne.

All this ought to have disarmed the most inveterate rancor; it ought to have softened any angered soul. But it did not, and, that no one may make any mistake about it, Bismarck lets slip no opportunity of manifesting his disapproval of what is and his general pessimism, in his harangues, his personal manifestoes and in the articles of all the journals subventioned to his cause—of these last he has one at least in New York. Nothing pleases him, principally, because nothing is done by himself or by his henchmen, and, spite of all the diluvian floods of imperial good will poured upon him, he complains that insufficient honor has been rendered to his services. Not one ceremony, not one commemoration of the incidents of the great war puts enough in relief the personality of this "real organizer of victory;" all homage is accorded to Roon or Moltke, and what would those soldiers have been without him?

Nor is this all, Bismarck is not only distressed that to him is not given the lion's share of glory for the past; he feels distress because the present reins of government are too loosely held, that the government is feeble, that a state of siege and martial law is not a permanent institution.

As to foreign policy, everything goes from bad to worse: the end as well as the means. Germany follows in the wake of Austria, instead of taking in tow that power, by which she has been compromised in the Balkan question, where Germany was not interested, and being thus "*subalterned*," the Cabinet of Berlin has acquired the hostility of St. Petersburg, whose hereditary friendship ought to be the basis of Prussian diplomacy, and, to crown this edifice of error, Germany allows herself to become the dupe of "perfidious Albion;" she listens to that siren, Lord Salisbury; she sacrifices the substance to the shadow.

#### SOME NATIONAL RELATIONS.

All this is the jeremiade of a cross-grained old man; but all this comes from a man whom Germany has learned to look upon as the genius of German policy, as the creator of German greatness and, given those conditions, these rather senile objurgations cannot but be a cause of serious future embarrassment to Prince von Hohenlohe and even to the Emperor William himself; in any case, they do not indicate the role assigned to Prince Bismarck, in the future partition of French soil, by the author of *The Radical Nightmare*. The writer reaches more nearly the mark where he prophesies an arrangement of England with Germany; such a combination is even under consideration at present, but, as neither of the contracting parties will state its pretensions to an "equitable" (?) *quid pro quo* with genuine guarantees therefor, as each has no confidence in the other's loyalty, there is a delay in the conclusion of a combination, without which any violent action might be dangerous. Lord Salisbury is of too great common sense to affront the chances of a conflict with so strong a team against him as France, Russia and Turkey, the coming *triplice* for the Eastern question, if reopened—with India ripe for rebellion, and with no other certain ally than Italy. On the other hand, if Russo-German relations are frigid, witness Prince Lobanow's interdiction of the celebration of Sedan within the Imperial dominions—the tempestuous William knows that Austria will not move unless Russia provokes a genuine *casus belli*, the which she cannot be tricked into. Conclusion: War is possible at any moment, but is more than improbable at present.

## AUGUSTE COMTE.

[ADAPTED FROM THE FRENCH OF M. EMILE FAGUET.]

## PART I.

BORN in 1798, at Montpellier, of a monarchical and Catholic family (a fact always to be considered), Auguste Comte was, as a child, nervous, impatient, very intelligent, eager for instruction, extraordinarily precocious, of the sort bound, as the doctors say, to have meningitis sooner or later. Sensitive, ardent, unruly, he was very capable of passionate fondness for a favorite teacher—a quality twice exemplified, first with Professor Encontre, at Montpellier, and subsequently with Saint Simon—and yet more capable of throwing off the scholar's yoke and discipline, and manifesting, relative to authority, a kind of umbrageous mistrust or passionate defiance. At sixteen he was a pupil of the Ecole Polytechnique, a great worker and a great devourer of books, especially philosophical ones, having, it appears, read Fontenelle, Maupertius, Adam Smith, Freret, Duclos, Diderot, Hume, De Maistre, De Bonald, Bichet, Gall and others, and found time to head an insurrection in the school which led to the expulsion of its inmates. For a short while Secretary to Casimir Perier (a not very congenial position, above all in connection with a man so self-willed as the latter also was), he soon left him to go straight to Saint Simon, toward whom, apparently, he was in every way attracted.

At this date, 1817, Saint Simon was the superabounding, tumultuous reformer, ready every morning with a fresh scheme for the reconstruction of the world on a new basis. He was a wonderful exciter; but being not deeply read and a continual improviser, he must have found in Auguste Comte, already so well stored with book learning, a live dictionary, so to speak, ever open to research and able to throw light thereon. Comte, on the other hand, needed an alert, impetuous, original mind, since his own, though swift to conceive, was awkward and embarrassed enough when it came to exposition, as is, indeed, the case with all those who not only possess a multitude of ideas, but all their ideas at once. During five or six years they worked together, and, as we shall see, the impress of Saint Simon upon Comte was ineffaceable. At length they quarreled, however, both being extremely proud and egotistical, and therefore rendering all collaboration difficult; moreover, one was at the extreme term and the other at the very beginning of his evolution, by reason of which Comte was shocked at a certain religious spirit and "theological color" in Saint Simon, which he was afterward to attain and plunge into much more profoundly than Saint Simon himself.

Dating from this misunderstanding, Comte walked all alone, entirely separated from the Saint-Simonians, Socialists, Liberals, in a word, from every party and from all the world, eking out a living for a number of years from lessons in mathematics and as private tutor in the Ecole Polytechnique, subsequently, on allowances from his disciples, or rather those faithful to his philosophy; the victim of an unhappy marriage, then of a troublesome divorce, discovering in a great love—or rather in one of those mystical adorations which not seldom infatuate men of fifty—a rapture of a year's duration, then, after the death of the idol, an exquisite occupation of the heart, "a converse," sweet and cherished, consoling and illuminating his last years. A sad and an embittered man, very much irritated, and with reason (if it ever is reasonable to be irritated), at those who had neither named him a professor of mathematics in the Ecole Polytechnique nor a professor of scientific philosophy in the College de France, he was, thank heaven! extremely proud, and found in his pride comfort for all his woes: laboring until the end, which is yet better in the way of consolation and spiritual support; dying at last, too late, say some—albeit not to our thinking—still comparatively young, being just on the verge of sixty, with his mind full of the great work he had done, and his heart ever enraptured with the remembrance of her whom he had loved.

I look upon him as exceedingly artless, as well as prodigiously proud, showing traits of the precocious child, the high-school boy, and the college professor—that is, he had a very well-nourished mind, absolute in its ideas and widely separated from the rest of the world. His acquaintance with men was slight, as is the case with all in whom the awakening of ideas has been very forward and so intoxicating that they have lived thereon both in childhood and in youth. Seldom does the psychological sense have birth in mature life. Comte never had it; and he appears dismayed at men's injustice toward him, just as if it were possible for men to discern in a few short years the merit of a man superior to themselves. He wonders at inconsistency, ingratitude, heedlessness, meager perspicacity, lack of devotion, as if such things did not form the common, natural and eternal basis of humanity, and as if, so long as it refrains from persecution, one ought not to be very well content. A letter of his to Littré is a monument of ingenuousness. He complains that his wife is almost devoid of "that tenderness which constitutes the principal attribute of her sex," wanting in "the instinct of kindness" and "the instinct of veneration," being, in a word, what for Comte is the severest accusation, "a purely revolutionary nature." He feels amazed and irritated because Madame Comte is always hoping "to transform him into an academical machine for the getting of money, titles and position." Such are the things that surprise Comte as being extraordinary anomalies. Evidently, he has passed through this world without understanding a word about it, without a grain not only of the faculty of moral observation, but even of that elementary keenness of vision which, according to one's nature, serves either to get one a place in society such as one finds it, or to make one endure it without irritation.

Comte's pride, which I have termed prodigious, yet which was not, perhaps, greater than anyone else's, but which appeared immense because not counterbalanced by a sense of the real, and because, being set at liberty, so to speak, by his very artlessness, it knew no bounds, was such that this plain, quiet man, in his little student chamber, with no ostentation in his cold, polished manners, and with no *vanity*, regarded no rank on earth, not even the loftiest of the spiritual hierarchy, as not his by right, and, furthermore, reserved and assured in future to him as the one being who had, perhaps, ever merited it. The pride of lyric poets, whether through self-laudation or the praise of others, does not approach this of Comte's, although in such matters to measure is difficult.

WILLIAM STRUTHIERS.

## FOREIGN FACTS AND FANCIES.

HERE Ischia smiles o'er liquid miles,  
And yonder, bluest of the isles,  
Calm Capri waits, her sapphire gates  
Beguiling to her bright estates.

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Signor Crispi, it is said, wears a shirt of chain mail, made by a Milanese armorer, when he goes out of doors.

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The Emir of Bokhara, who has recently gone to a mineral-water cure in the Caucasus for an affection of the feet, was obliged to obtain the permission of the Czar of Russia before leaving his own dominions.

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Gypsies in France have hitherto managed to avoid being numbered and traced. They roam through the country in bands, and as long as they did no serious harm were let alone by the police. Now the gendarmes have orders to take a census of these nomads and to see that those who are not French are registered like other foreigners.

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In Italy in the last ten years 947 duels have been fought over newspaper articles, 730 on account of rivalry in love, 377 for political differences, 289 for insulting words, and the smallest number, 19, for disputes at cards. According to the figures, journalists are most apt to fight, and actors least of those who fought at all, but there is not a single banker or capitalist in the list.

## AMONG THE PREACHERS.

I SAY to thee, weapons reach not the Life,  
Flame burns it not, waters cannot o'erwhelm,  
Nor dry winds wither it.

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Dean Allen, aged ninety-four, of St. David's Cathedral, England, is in vigorous health, superintends all the business of the Cathedral and conducts the daily service.

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In a bit of sound counsel to preachers somebody reminds them that ivy may adorn a wall or simply hide it. Rhetoric may enforce or it may conceal the truth. It makes a poor substitute for the Gospel. Man cannot live by flowers alone.

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There is a regular swarm of Afro-American preachers aspiring to be the next chaplain of the House of Representatives. Walter H. Brooks and the Rev. J. T. Jenifer are leading in the popular newspaper vote which the Washington *Colored American* is conducting.

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The Michigan *Advocate* is responsible for this: "A delegate to the colored general conference African M. E. Church is reported as saying: 'Brethren, let us Methodists all unite; then we won't have anybody to fight but the devil and the Baptists.' We have always understood that the colored people of the South were either Methodists, Baptists, or sinners."

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The Rev. Dr. T. E. Sherman, the son of Gen. W. T. Sherman, who has just passed through the year of probation which is the last stage of preparation for admission to the final vow of the Society of Jesus, has been assigned to the mission service. He expects to visit every place of interest in the Northwest. He has been spending some time recently at Marquette College, Michigan.

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The late Vicar-General Hughes, during his more than forty years as pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Hartford, was a good citizen and a marked figure in the local life. He went to that parish in 1854, and ten years later the debt of \$41,000 on the church property had been paid off. In 1869 he built an asylum for boys at a cost of \$30,000. In 1875 the old St. Patrick's Church was burned down, and under his leadership it was replaced with a structure which cost \$175,000. It will be seen that he was an able financier, and was so recognized in the financial circles of Hartford. He had been administrator of the diocese for twenty times in the absence of the bishop, or during the interregnum between the death of a bishop and the appointment of his successor.

## BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

MR. ANSTEV has tried the doubtful experiment of putting his new book, *Lyre and Lancet*, in dramatic form, or, as he phrases it, in scenes. The failure would have been more emphatic if he had been less skillful in presenting his ideas. Readers of fiction do not, as a rule, take kindly to such departures. As it is, the story is disappointing to those who have such pleasant recollections of that laughable conceit, *Vice Versa*, and of the other performances of the author. Mr. Anstey's central idea is a somewhat threadbare one. He makes a poet and a veterinary surgeon change places at an English country house, and extracts from the ensuing situations a good deal of fun. But to appreciate the humor the reader must accept as plausible circumstances which tax credulity very heavily. For a mere "skit" or a single act "curtain raiser," the plot would hold together. But, embellished with the conversation which Mr. Anstey puts in the mouths of his characters to the detriment of the machinery of the story, the plot weakens badly at times. It is a pity that the author did not employ a little more ingenuity in the selection of a subject for his fun making. He achieves his success in presenting absurdities. But, anomalous as it may seem, an absurdity to be perfect should contain a liberal allowance of truth, and *Lyre and Lancet* has not that. From a new writer the book would deserve less critical a reception. But we look for better things from Mr. Anstey. (New York: Macmillan & Co. Price, \$1.25.)

As a companion to *Masterpieces of American Authors*, now comes *Masterpieces of British Literature*. The book is an excellent selection and arrangement of the best known work of the famous English writers until Ruskin's time. It contains a biographical note and portrait of each of the authors represented, and should have a sale, for the reason that it affords at a glance a review of British literature sufficiently detailed and comprehensive for that large class of people who profess that their time forbids a more thorough reading of what every intelligent man and woman should know. (New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

Mary Beaumont shows herself to be a graceful story teller in the bundle of tales entitled *A Ringby Lass*. The book holds five stories, and, though a choice among these is not difficult, they one and all commend themselves to the reader who wants a half hour or more of diversion. The story which gives title to the collection is decidedly the best. It is a pretty rural romance, and "Miss Josephine," the Yorkshire girl, "t' bonniest lass i' t' counthry," is a pretty figure. "Jack" is a sad little story summing up a deal of human passion and nobility in its scanty length. "The White Christ," a Norwegian tale, gives an idea of the power of religion in molding the belief of the simple peasant. "Miss Penelope's Tale" is a bit mystical. "The Revenge of Her Race" seems familiar, but has the material in it for a decidedly more ambitious story. The dainty binding of the volume is a credit to the publishers. The illustrations by I. Walter West are only passable. (New York: Macmillan & Co. Price, 75 cents.)

There is perceptible a growing interest in the work of Thomas Love Peacock, and the revival of a taste for his novels is to the credit of the reading public. Just how soon the wayward appetite of those who keep up the demand for fiction will refuse what it now seems to crave is doubtful, but it is good to see that already there has come to the front a new edition of Peacock's works, two of which, *Maid Marian* and *Crotchet Castle*, bound together, with an introduction by George Saintsbury, and illustrations by F. H. Townsend, are just out. (New York: Macmillan & Co. Price, \$1.25.)

Mommsen's *History of Rome*, as translated by Professor William Purdie Dickson, is a work of such authority that the fact that a new edition of the translation has been brought out merits attention, even though since 1861, when it first appeared, there have been two revisions of the English text. Additions and changes in the original by Professor Mommsen induced Professor Dickson to present this translation, which corresponds, as nearly as possible, to the latest German edition. The amplification of the index is the chief feature of the work, which is in five volumes. (New York: Charles Scribner.)

Mrs. Willie Walker Caldwell is a young writer of the South. Her book, *The Tie that Binds*, is, however, a performance that would not be discreditable to one of mature experience. It is conventional in part to a certain extent, but, as it entertains, its lack of conspicuous originality may be forgotten. The story relates the difficulties which a young Eastern man meets who goes into the South to make a livelihood. The element of romance is strengthened by making him fall in love with a Southern girl, the daughter of his landlady. There is an effort to show in this way that sectional hostility is weak when matched against love. The story is prettily told. (Franklin, O: The Editor Publishing Co.)

Opie Read has scarcely done himself justice in *On the Suwanee River*. It is inferior to *A Kentucky Cardinal* as a picture of Southern life. The author supplies in the new story more than one character sketch delicately drawn and of subtle fascination, and these, together with the vein of gentle humor which pervades the dialogue, makes the book readable. But the novel has not the charm of its predecessors, and the fault seems to lie in the story itself, which does not hold attention as it should do. (Chicago: Laird & Lee.)

Text-books these days are very different from those of twenty-five or thirty years ago, and even in the translations of the classics the student of the present has advantages which his father did not possess. In point is *The Greater Poems of Virgil*. J. B. Grenough and G. L. Kitteredge, whose work it is, have added to the body of the book an account of the growth of epic poetry, with some remarks upon the effect of Virgil's work on English literature. An excellent vocabulary with explanatory notes enhances the value of the volume. (Boston: Guin & Co. Price, \$1.65.)

## ODDS AND ENDS.

WHAT is said to be the largest belt in the world has recently been made by a Hartford belting company. It is 118 feet long, 78 inches wide, and is four-ply. It took the hides of 100 steers to make it.

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One of the largest private estates in the world is that of Dr. W. Seward Webb, at Shelburne, Vt., on the shores of Lake Champlain. The property consists of more than 4,000 acres of beautiful rolling land bordering on the lake. There Dr. Webb maintains one of the most magnificent establishments on the Continent—Shelburne House—where he lives the greater part of the year and entertains in royal style. He has a stable of blooded horses, a fleet of yachts on the lake, and has a game preserve of several hundred acres. He can entertain his friends with racing, yachting and hunting and fishing, all of which sports he enjoys himself.

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There is at least one country in the world where it costs nothing to die. In some of the cantons of Switzerland all the dead, rich as well as poor, are buried at the public expense, says an exchange. Coffins and all other necessary articles are furnished on application to certain undertakers designated by the government. Everything connected with the interment is absolutely gratuitous, including the grave and the religious service. All classes avail themselves freely of the law.

In the canton of Glarus, strangers as well as citizens are buried at the expense of the State. The grave, too, must be kept in proper condition for a term of ten years. The cemetery is the property of the community, and is placed under the care of a superintendent, who arranges for and conducts funerals, keeps a register of the graves, which are numbered consecutively, and sees that they are properly marked and kept in order. The coffins are to be made of pine wood and after a model prescribed by the authorities, who establish a uniform price for them. The graves follow each other in regular order, according to date of burial, in uniform rows, and the dead are all laid side by side without distinction as to standing in life or religious belief.

## CHIPS FOR CAPITALISTS.

THE Railroad Gazette computes new orders for freight cars since the first of the year at 25,000 cars, costing \$10,000,000.

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There are 70,000 acres given up to the cultivation of oysters along the Long Island Sound front of Connecticut, and the land and plants are valued at \$4,000,000.

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Gold is rapidly displacing sugar as the chief staple of British Guiana. From 250 ounces in 1884 the production has increased to 138,000 ounces. It is obtained at present chiefly by placer mining.

\*\*\*

The Argentine Republic, which has just begun its career as a wheat exporter, expects to ship 90,000,000 bushels of last year's crop. Out of the crop for the previous year it exported 25,000,000 bushels, chiefly to England.

\*\*\*

In 1894 Connecticut took out one patent for every 993 of its inhabitants and Massachusetts one for every 1,335. These were the most inventive States. South Carolina, with one patent for every 25,581 inhabitants, was least so.

\*\*\*

The rapid growth of one of the great industries of the Pacific coast may be suggested by the fact that 30,000 carloads (about 140,000,000 pounds) of dried fruit were shipped from California last year. The output has almost doubled in five years.

\*\*\*

While the exportation of German and Austrian beer is increasing, that of English ale and stout is decreasing steadily. Five years ago English brewers exported 599,000 barrels and last year only 414,261 barrels, or about 15,000,000 gallons. The German exportation was 66,000,000 gallons.

## Wanamaker's

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GEORGE GUNTON,

President of the School of Social Economics

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Greek coins brought high prices at Lord Ashburnham's sale in the early part of May. A Sicilian silver tetradrachm of 415 B. C. was sold for \$1,080, a tetradrachm of Segesta, 480 B. C., for \$855; a silver stater of Stymphalus, 400 B. C., for \$655; a gold stater of Tarentum for \$875, and one of Philip II. of Macedon for \$310.

\*\*

France still heads the list of the European wine-producing countries with an average of 700,000,000 gallons a year for the last ten years. Next come Italy and Spain with 615,000,000 and 564,000,000 gallons respectively; then come Turkey, with the States once included in it, with 202,000,000. Austria-Hungary with 143,000,000, Germany with 84,000,000, Portugal 79,000,000, Russia 71,000,000, Greece 30,000,000 and Switzerland 27,000,000 gallons. England, Holland, Belgium and the Scandinavian States do not produce enough wine to be considered in the account. Europe produces yearly 2,512,000,000 gallons of wine.

## NUGGETS AND NUBBINS.

"LOVE laughs at locksmiths," Strephon cried.  
"At all their works he mocks;  
Bars, bolts and chains he sweeps aside,  
And picks all locks."

Then up spoke Chloe fervently,  
With no uncertain voice—  
"If the young rogue will pick for me,  
A wed-lock is my choice!"

\*\*

She—And so you are wedded to your art.  
He—Yes; body and soul.  
She—And don't you consider marriage a failure?

\*\*

"How is young Bagges doing in business?" asked her father. "Splendidly," was the confident reply; "he says that he considers himself very lucky at the store." "Have they raised his salary?" "N-no; but they threatened to discharge him and didn't do it."

\*\*

Little Dick—You can say what you please about boys, but mens is polite, anyhow. Mens always give up their seats to ladies.

Little Dot (the cynic)—That's 'cause sittin' down makes their trousers bag at the knees.

\*\*

Penelope—Well, Bishop, after all, there's only a difference of a single syllable between salvation and perdition.

The Bishop—Why, my dear young lady, how can you say that!

Penelope—It's merely a question of eternal bliss or eternal blisters.

\*\*

Comedian William F. Hoey once encountered a distinctly ingenuous Britisher. The comedian formed his acquaintance during one of the *Lucania*'s incoming voyages, and the two breakfasted in New York together.

"I guess I'll turn out to see Harry after breakfast," said the guest.

"Harry?" queried the comedian, softly.

"Yes; my brother," explained the Englishman. "I've two here. Harry lives in San Francisco, and Charlie in Chicago."

"But you'll be back for dinner?" facetiously quizzed Hoey.

The Britisher took him seriously. "Sure for dinner, if not for lunch," he answered. And, accompanied by the actor, now thoroughly alive to the humor of the incident, he found himself a few minutes later in the line of ticket buyers in the Grand Central depot.

"An excursion ticket to San Francisco, stopping at Chicago station on return," he ordered.

The ticket agent put about a quarter of a mile of pasteboard under his stamp, pounding it for a minute or more, thrust it before the explorer, and expectantly awaited payment.

"When does the train go?" asked the Englishman.

"In ten minutes," was the answer.

"How much is it?"

"One hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fifty cents."

"What?" the Englishman gasped. "How far is it?"

"Three thousand miles."

"Old Hoss" was right behind to catch the falling form, and, as he guided the half fainting Englishman back to the cab, where he snuggled helplessly in a corner, the single exclamation escaped, "What a country!"

## TEA TABLE GOSSIP.

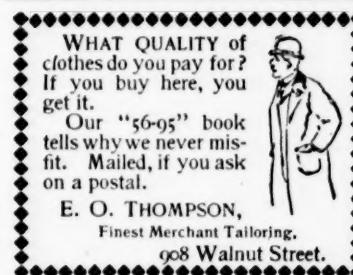
**T**APIOCA is not a grain like rice. It is a starchy substance obtained by washing and scraping the roots of the cassava plant. Most of it comes, we believe, from Brazil. The cassava plant does not grow in the United States.

\*\*

A piece of Berlin Gobelin tapestry of the seventeenth century, kept in the Hohenzollern Museum, has just been repaired and hung in the Royal Palace. It represents the Great Elector at the siege of Stettin, is 15 feet by 12, and is valued at \$75,000. The moth-eaten pieces were replaced by new ones, and the tattered silver by new, in the Berlin factory.

\*\*

The microscope reveals the neat contrivance which enables a fly to walk up a windowpane or defy the laws of gravity by gliding along, back downward, on the ceiling. The magnifier shows the foot to be made up of two pads, covered with fine short hair, each pad having a hook above it. Behind each pad is a bag filled with a sticky liquid, which oozes out whenever the fly puts his foot down. The amount which is pressed out of each foot is very small, indeed, but taken all together it is amply sufficient to hold the insect in any position he chooses.



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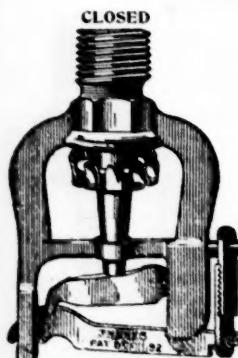
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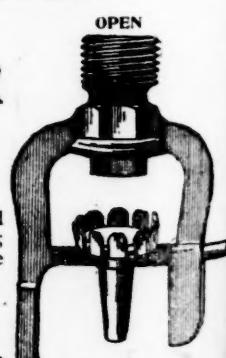
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